



Members

Adrian College
Adrian High School
Adrian Police Department
Catholic Charities of Lenawee
Communities In Schools of Lenawee
Community Action Agency
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Lenawee County Department of Human Services
Lenawee Human Services Collaborative
Lenawee Intermediate School District
Lenawee NAACP
Lenawee United Way
McCullough Vargas & Associates, Inc.
ProMedica
Siena Heights University
WLEN Radio
Youth and Community
Chair,
Martha Hall
Lenawee Health Department
Coalition Coordinator,
Leigh Jameson-Heise

Dear Chairman Haveman and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express our strong support for HB 4891. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Matt Lori, will dedicate a portion of the state's annual income from alcohol sales each year to the treatment and prevention of substance use disorder services.

We are all aware of the terrible pain and suffering that result from untreated alcohol and drug abuse and dependence. It is a rare person who does not know someone who suffers from or has died from alcohol or drug dependence. And the financial liability of paying for criminal justice costs, social welfare costs and healthcare costs related to alcohol and drug abuse is a huge burden on all of us as taxpayers.

Unfortunately, we as a state have not put anything like appropriate resources into the very services which can reduce the pain and cut the cost of untreated substance use disorders, as well as help prevent the development of such problems in the first place. In spite of the increased demand for substance use disorder services, we have seen our commitment of state funds for services actually drop by more than half over the past twenty years. Rep. Lori's bill reverses that slide and ensures that adequate funding each year is provided for much needed services. It also seems quite appropriate that the funds come from the very product that contributes to the problems. It is both humane and a matter of justice that a reasonable portion of that income go to address substance abuse prevention and treatment among our citizens who seek help.

It is the mission of the Lenawee Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to prevent and reduce alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse and abuse among youth and adults in the Lenawee community through community planning, education, support, and collaboration. This is accomplished through programs and services that are provided across the county and in a variety of venues; such as schools, senior centers, community drug take-back days, parent education events, pharmacies, alcohol providers, and other community forums. However, additional funding would greatly increase our impact in the community.

Passage of HB 4891 will help ensure the good health of families and local communities, as well as reduce many costs to our state government. Our county will benefit from improving the health of our workforce as well as our student population. Most of all, those suffering from dependence will have access to the services that can help them to a whole new and healthy life.

I urge you to support HB 4891 and to let Rep. Lori know of your support for this much needed bill.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Hall".

Martha Hall
LSAPC Chair

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